Leicester, Mass. Apl. 21. 63.

Dear Mr. Webb,

It is quite time that I had sent you my Annual account, and herewith it is. I hope it will be all clear, tho' I know you have not always seen through my figures, yet have always had a most kindly faith in them. I believe this acct. will explain itself, unless in respect to one item, about which I am not quite sure myself; you will find a note about it on the Account itself; and I shall be glad to know just what you & Alfred think of it. In regard to simple receipts & payments, calculations of interest, exchange, &c, and sub-division of moneys, I can get along quite correctly, I believe. But when it comes to the mingling of various accounts, & the carrying of debits & credits from one to another, I am liable to a good deal of puzzle, and often have to think a great while before I work myself clear. — In regard to the acct. herewith sent, I believe I have quite justly & correctly apportioned the sums you sent, & received by me from Jan. 6th to Feb. 17th inclusive, among the various objects designated. I am sure the 2 papers, Standard & Liberator, get the full of what is due them. In acknowledging the last payments in Standard, Gay or the printers make a serious error in regard to Miss Esther's payment for 1863 — of which I have notified him. Her payment (with premium added) amounted to $5.73 (a very good sum for one year's subscription indeed), but it is entered $10.50. You will see, by account at head of the paper, that a balance of $12.38 is due you, which I carry to new account.

I enclose copy of a vote of our Exec. Comtee, which please hand to Alfred.

I hope soon to hear of the safe arrival to your hands of the parcel which I forwarded to you, per Steamer, some 5 weeks since (tho' I have not here the exact date.)

As to the "Advocate" I would advise discontinuing Rev. E. M. Wheelock's paper (Dover, N. H.), if not already done. He has been the Chaplain of one of the N. H. regiments for a long time. I have no authority in this case; he has never communicated with any of us about it; and my fear is that, in his pre-occupation of mind about his new duties, he may have forgotten about this. A. M. Powell, Ghent, N. Y., writes me that the Advocate "still comes to me more or less regularly", although he had requested it discontinued some time since; and I find by my memorandum that I sent on to you his request to that effect Nov. 26. 1861. Please discontinue it.

P. Pillsbury has recently been reduced very low by a severe attack of illness, and when I last saw him (a week to-day) he was barely able to move along slowly. He then looked to me like a mortally sick man. It is not such an illness, he said, as he had at Mr. Estlin's, but more like one he had about a year after his return from England. The rest of the "old guard" are in about usual health.

As to our National affairs, - we hope & think progress is making, yet it is slow. The rebels do not abate their purpose nor improve in temper & spirit, though doubtless they are feeling very keenly the dearth of food, & the pressure of financial difficulties. They made an overwhelming demonstration against our nine iron-clads when they entered the harbor of Charleston 2 weeks ago to-day. For a time the discharges of heavy rebel artillery averaged 200 a minute. It was for some time one unbroken, continuous roar. The quantity of metal showered upon these devoted rebels was enormous, - & much of it proved

to be ammunition of English origin. For myself I believe they not only had the very best cannon & ammunition which England could furnish, in heavy quantities, but the aid of the ablest English gunners hired & sent there. This may not be quite susceptible of proof as yet. — I have to thank you for a 'Daily News' containing report of parliamentary debate on the 'Alabama'. Mr. Forster did bravely. Mr. Baring's censure of the ministers, though very carefully expressed, must have been felt by them deeply. Mr. Laird's speech was simply infamous. The Solicitor-General (who is he?) made a most sophistical speech, also, if I can judge at all, and one particularly calculated to stir up feelings of strife. 'Tis really the most lamentable thing about this Slaveholders' rebellion — the amount & extent of hostile & vindictive feeling in England to this country, and the eagerness with which multitudes there 'jump at the chance' of crippling & subjecting us, — and to think of British alliance with these Slaveholders for such a purpose! the very men who have cheated England, insulted England, & attributed every low & selfish motive to England all their lives, and who used the U. S. Govt (when they controlled it) as long & as much as they could for the purpose of defying & opposing England. With these men it is that the Lairds & their like deem it proper to associate, to accomplish their selfish & spiteful ends. Do these men foresee (& with satisfaction) the State of things they are bringing about? If there is conscience & manliness enough in the British people to listen to Bright, & Newman, & Hall, & Baptist Noel, & Mill, &c. &c. instead of Palmerston, & Gladstone, & Gregory, & Laird, &c. we shall be saved, both sides, a multitude of woes. But my time is up nearly, and I must write a line or two to Miss Wigham.

With sincerest regards to all y^r. family, — & yourself,

Ever truly Yours

Sam^l. May Jr.

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